

INSTITUTIONS, FACILITIES, & RESIDENTIAL RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Institutions, facilities, and residential retirement communities which are licensed under Chapter 242, 246, or 247 of the Health and Safety Code may obtain BLUE Disabled Parking Placards and/or Disabled License Plates, or Disabled Veteran License Plates, for vans or buses operated for the transport of their residents. A Texas Vehicle Registration Receipt must be provided for each van or bus for which placards and/or plates are requested. Contact the Vehicle Titles and Registration Division at (512) **465-7611** for additional information.

REFUELING SERVICES

Refueling services are available to a disabled driver of a vehicle that displays a Disabled Parking Placard or Disabled License Plates. The refueling service is available only at service stations or other facilities which provide both full-service and self-service pump islands and is limited to gasoline and diesel fuel. Prices charged for the fuel may not be greater than the self-service price. Complaints concerning non-compliance with this law should be directed to the local district or county attorney or to the Texas Attorney General's consumer affairs office.

PENALTIES

People who park in accessible parking spaces or who misuse Disabled Parking Placards or License Plates are subject to fines of up to \$2,500 and/or up to 50 hours of community service.

Accordingly, parking a vehicle so as to block any disabled parking van-access aisle is an offense.

SEIZURE & REVOCATION OF PLACARDS

A law enforcement officer may seize a Disabled Parking Placard if the law enforcement officer believes that a parking offense was committed.

If it is determined that probable cause for the seizure of the placard existed, the law enforcement agency will return the placard to the Vehicle Titles and Registration Division no later than the fifth day after the offense.

The person from whom the placard was seized may request a hearing. At the hearing, the department will determine if revocation of the placard should continue or if the revocation should be rescinded.

TAXATION

Certain persons with disabilities are exempt from the Motor Vehicle Sales and Use Tax. Specific details regarding this exemption may be obtained by contacting the state comptroller's office at 1-800-252-5555 or the local county tax assessor-collector's office.

DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATES

To qualify for Disabled Veteran License Plates, an applicant must:



- be a Texas resident;
- be a veteran of the United States Armed Forces;
- have a service-connected disability of at least 50 percent or at least 40 percent due to the amputation of a lower extremity;
- receive compensation from the Federal Government as a result of the disability; and
- have a vehicle titled in his or her name.

Application for Disabled Veteran License Plates and Parking Placards may be made by submitting an Application for Disabled Veteran License Plates and Parking Placards (Form VTR-615) directly to your local county tax assessor-collector's office.

An individual with Disabled Veteran License Plates may apply for parking placards without being required to submit an additional Application for Persons with Disabilities Parking Placard and/or License Plate (Form VTR-214) signed and notarized.

Qualified applicants may obtain Disabled Veteran License Plates for each qualifying vehicle that they own and placards for display on each motor vehicle with a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity of two tons or less.

The cost for the first set of Disabled Veteran License Plates is \$3. The cost for any additional set of license plates is the regular registration fee for the vehicle.

Disabled Veteran Organizations

An organization may register a motor vehicle with Disabled Veteran License Plates if (1) the vehicle is used exclusively to transport veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have suffered, as a result of military service, a service-connected disability, and (2) the veterans are not charged for the transportation.



BASIC FACTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

THIS BROCHURE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE BASIC FACTS ABOUT MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION, PARKING PRIVILEGES, AND REFUELING SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT THE VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION DIVISION AT **(512) 465-7611**.

DEFINITIONS

“Disability” means a condition in which a person has:

- (A) mobility problems that substantially impair the person's ability to ambulate;
- (B) visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses; or
- (C) visual acuity of more than 20/200 but with a limited field of vision in which the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle of 20 degrees or less. Transportation Code §681.001

“Mobility problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate” means that the person:

- (A) cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;
- (B) cannot walk without the use of or assistance from an assistance device, including a brace, cane, crutch, another person or a prosthetic device;
- (C) cannot ambulate without a wheelchair or similar device;
- (D) is restricted by lung disease to the extent that the person's forced respiratory expiratory volume for one second, measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 millimeters of mercury on room air at rest;
- (E) uses portable oxygen;
- (F) has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association;
- (G) is severely limited in the ability to walk because of an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition; or
- (H) has a disorder of the foot that, in the opinion of a person licensed to practice podiatry in this state or a state adjacent to this state, limits or impairs the person's ability to walk;
- (I) has another debilitating condition that, in the opinion of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state or a state adjacent to this state, or authorized by applicable law to practice medicine in a hospital or other health facility of the Veterans Administration, limits or impairs the person's ability to walk.

Transportation Code §681.001



**Texas Department
of Motor Vehicles**

HELPING TEXANS GO. HELPING TEXAS GROW.

**BASIC FACTS FOR
PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**



**VEHICLE TITLES AND
REGISTRATION DIVISION**

**(512) 465-7611
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www.TxDMV.gov**

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DISABLED PARKING PLACARDS



There are two types of Disabled Parking Placards: **BLUE** and **RED**.

Application for the placards is made through the county tax assessor-collector's office in the person's county of residence.

In accordance with Transportation Code §681.001(2), disability means a condition in which a person has a mobility problem that substantially impairs a persons ability ambulate; visual acuity of more than 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses; or visual acuity of more than 20/200 but with a limited field of vision in which the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle 20 degrees or less.

Blue Placards

BLUE Disabled Parking Placards are issued to persons with a permanent disability.

Red Placards

RED Disabled Parking Placards are issued to persons with a temporary disability.

Placard Fee

There is no fee for **BLUE** placards issued for a PERMANENT disability; there is a \$5 fee for each **RED** placard issued for a TEMPORARY disability (up to two RED placards may be issued).

Length of Time Placards are Valid

BLUE Placards issued for a permanent disability are valid for a maximum of four years.

RED Placards issued for a temporary disability are valid for six months from the date of issuance or until the end of the disability, whichever comes first.

The owner of a motor vehicle with a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity of two tons or less, regularly operated by or for the non-commercial transportation of a person with a permanent disability may obtain Disabled License Plates from the county tax assessor-collector.

DISABLED LICENSE PLATES



Cost of Disabled License Plates

The fee for Disabled License Plates is the regular registration fee for the vehicle as prescribed by law.

Personalized Disabled License Plates

Disabled License Plates may be personalized for an additional annual fee of \$40. Up to six characters may be selected for Disabled License Plates for passenger vehicles and light trucks; up to five characters may be selected for Disabled Motorcycle License Plates. Questions may be directed to your local county tax assessor-collector's office.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application for Disabled Parking Placards and Disabled License Plates may be made by submitting an Application for Persons with Disabilities Parking Placard and/or License Plate (Form VTR-214) to the county tax assessor-collector's office in the applicant's county of residence.

Driver License or Identification Number Required

The disabled person, or person making application on behalf of the disabled person, must include their driver license (DL) number or personal identification card number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Out-of-state driver license numbers are permissible for nonresident military personnel stationed on a military installation in Texas. If the person with the disability has a DL or Texas ID number issued to them, it is preferable to show the disabled person's number on the placard since the vehicle is to be used on their behalf.

Signature Required

The "Disability Statement" on the Form VTR-214 must be signed by (1) a physician licensed to practice medicine in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, or Oklahoma (2) a physician's assistant in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, or Oklahoma if the applicant lives in a county with a population of 125,000 or less, (3) a physician practicing medicine in the U.S. military on a military installation in Texas, or (4) a physician practicing medicine in a hospital or other health facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or (5) a person licensed to practice podiatry or optometry in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, or Oklahoma. The physician's or applicable signature must be notarized, unless a written prescription from the physician or authorized professional is attached.

Prescription Acceptable

In place of a notarized signature on the Form VTR-214, a written prescription which includes the disabled person's name, a statement if the disability is permanent

or temporary, and the physician's, physician's assistant (if applicable), optometrist's or podiatrist's signature. The prescription may be on a prescription form or on the office letterhead.

RENEWAL PROCESS

To renew a **BLUE** parking placard, the following must be submitted to the county tax assessor-collector's office:

- a new Form VTR-214 (NOT the disability statement), including the signature of the applicant; and
- the expiring placard(s) or a copy of the original Form VTR-214.

To renew Disabled License Plates, the vehicle owner must submit the Registration Renewal Notice for the vehicle to the county tax assessor-collector's office.

DISPLAY OF PARKING PLACARD

Disabled Parking Placards should be displayed on the vehicle's rearview mirror only when the vehicle is parked. The placard should be removed and stored in a safe place when the vehicle is in motion.

LIMITATIONS

A person with a permanent disability may typically obtain (a) two BLUE Disabled Parking Placards or (b) one BLUE Disabled Parking Placard and one set of Disabled License Plates (additional sets of Disabled License Plates may be issued to vehicles that have been specially equipped to be operated by a person who has lost the use of one or both legs, and disabled veterans with qualifying vehicles).

A person with a temporary disability may obtain one or two RED Disabled Parking Placards. A person with a temporary disability may not obtain Disabled License Plates.

These license plates are non-transferable

REPLACEMENT PROCESS

If a placard is lost, the applicant may obtain a replacement placard if the applicant is able to submit a photocopy of the original, completed Form VTR-214, verifying that a placard was issued. If the applicant does not have a photocopy of the Form VTR-214, and the county tax assessor-collector's office cannot verify that a placard was issued, the applicant may submit a new Form VTR-214 with the disability statement completed and notarized physician's or applicable signature (or a separate written prescription).

If one Disabled License Plate is lost, the applicant must surrender the remaining license plate to the county tax assessor-collector's office. A new set of Disabled License Plates will be issued upon payment of the \$5.30 (\$6.30 in counties with a population of 50,000 or more) replacement fee.

If a Disabled License Plate is lost or destroyed, the applicant may apply for new plates with a photocopy of

the original, completed Form VTR-214, or if the county tax assessor-collector's office can verify that Disabled License Plates were issued to the applicant's vehicle. If issuance cannot be verified, the applicant must submit a new Form VTR-214 with the disability statement completed and notarized signature (or a separate written prescription).

PARKING PRIVILEGES

Only vehicles operated by or for the transportation of a disabled person are eligible to park in areas or spaces that are designated specifically for disabled persons.

Blue and Red Placards

Vehicles displaying Disabled Placards may park in any parking space designated specifically for disabled persons.

Disabled Person License Plates

Vehicles displaying Disabled License Plates may park in any disabled parking space.

Disabled Veteran License Plates

Vehicles displaying Disabled Veteran License Plates may park in any disabled parking space.

PARKING FEES

Owners of vehicles displaying **BLUE** or **RED** Disabled Parking Placards or Disabled License Plates are exempt from the payment of a fee or penalty imposed by a governmental unit for parking at a meter if the vehicles are being operated by or for the transportation of persons with a disability. This exemption does not apply to a fee or penalty imposed by (1) a branch of the United States government, or (2) a governmental unit for parking at a meter, in a parking garage or lot, or in a space located within the boundaries of a municipal airport.

Owners of vehicles displaying Disabled Veteran, Congressional Medal of Honor, Former Prisoner of War, Pearl Harbor Survivor, Purple Heart Recipient, Legion of Valor (Air Force Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Army Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or Medal of Honor) or Legion of Merit License Plates are exempt from the payment of parking fees, including a fee collected through a parking meter, charged by a governmental authority other than a branch of the federal government. These vehicles are only exempt from the parking fees if they are being operated by or for the transportation of the person who registered the vehicle with the above mentioned license plates.

As stated in Attorney General's Opinion No. H-1291, vehicles displaying Disabled Veteran License Plates must not be parked at meters longer than the maximum indicated time on the meters if there is a restriction against parking at a meter in excess of that time. However, this restriction does not apply if the vehicle also displays a Disabled Parking Placard.